

# **BANABHATTA: A HISTORIAN OF ANCIENT INDIA(PART-3)**

**M.A HISTORY , SEM-3, PAPER CC:10**

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# WORKS OF BANABHATTA

## *Kadambari*

- ❖ Masterpiece of Banabhatta
- ❖ He clearly stated that Kadambari is a Katha and it is unsurpassed in excellence, i.e. without parallel
- ❖ This work seems to be later composition than the Harshacharita
- ❖ From literary point of view it turns out to be superior to the Harshacharita
- ❖ Its refine treatment of the subject, extraordinary construction and its polished style prove it to be a product of Banabhatta's mature genius

## WORKS OF BANABHATTA

- ❖ Kadambari has for its theme is a long tale narrated by a parrot called *Vaisampayana* to king Sudraka of Vidisa. It describe the love story of Ujjayini and Kadambar, a Gandharva princess. The love-episode of Kadambaris friend Mahasveta and Pundarika is interwoven in it.
- ❖ Unfortunately, Banabhatta died before he could finish the work and his worthy son Bhusanabanabhatta completed it.
- ❖ The part of the Kadambari written by Banabhatta is known as *Purvabhaga* and the later part composed by his son is called *uttaradha*.

# WORKS OF BANABHATTA

## *Other works*

- ❖ Chandisataka(a devotional poem)
- ❖ Parvatiparinaya (drama)
- ❖ Mukutataditakam (drama)
- ❖ Sivastuti (devotional poem in praise of Lord shiva)
- ❖ Saradachandrika (drama)

# HIS SCHOLARSHIP

- ❖ He attended various institutions of learning and had discourses with learned persons and thus acquired that scholarly attitude of mind which was appropriate to his family.
- ❖ He closely noticed human nature and gathered a rich stock of practical knowledge. As a result he was able to depict the real picture of human life and nature in his works that he has observed and experienced.
- ❖ He was a well read man and he displayed his acquaintance with all the texts in his works.
- ❖ He was proficient in the science of politics, the Arthashashtra etc., as it is evident from Sukansa's advice to Chandrapida in the Kadambari.

## HIS SCHOLARSHIP

- ❖ He also studied the science of Medicine, the Sakunasastra, i.e., the Science of Omens etc., is evident from the elaborate description of the queen Vilasavati.
- ❖ He also had a considerable acquaintance with the different system of philosophy which he has mentioned in Kadambari.
- ❖ Banabhatta was highly acclaimed by later Sanskrit poet which is evident from the various references to his poetical merit found in their works.

# SUMMARY

*Banabhatta* was a contemporary historian of ancient India whose writings are very much helpful in understanding the political, social, economic and cultural history of the Harsha period. Narration of Bana is correct but the sequence, chronology and importance of the event may not be as narrated by him. Therefore his account should be verified by other contemporary sources.

